

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box

PTO/SB/08A (10-96)

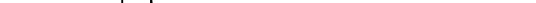
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

A circular stamp with the text "OIPE" at the top, "JC1815" on the right, "MAR 1 2 2001" in the center, and "PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE" and "She" around the bottom.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		Complete If Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number <u>09/781,378</u> Filing Date <u>02/12/01</u> First Named Inventor <u>Hein, et al.</u> Group Art Unit <u>7b2</u> Examiner Name <u>Chen</u> Attorney Docket Number <u>4969-SL-CT</u>	
Sheet	1	of	1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	10/3/02
-----------------------	---	--------------------	---------

***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute of form 1449/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION-DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Application Number	09/781,378
(use as many sheets as necessary)				Filing Date	February 12, 2001
				First Name Inventor	Gerald F. Hein
				Group Art Unit	1762
				Examiner Name	Chen
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	84555/9013

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	U.S. Patent Document Number	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document
	4,973,388	Francois et al.	11/27/1990
	5,234,561	Randhawa et al.	8/10/1993
			RECEIVED
			AUG 15 2002
			TECH CENTER 1600/2900

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials	Country Code	Foreign Patent Document Number	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document
	EP	0974684	Hauzer Ind	1/26/2000
	EP	0798572	GEC Marconi, Ltd.	10/1/1997
	GB	2202237	Vac-Tec Systems	9/21/1988
			RECEIVED	COPY OF PAPERS ORIGINALLY FILED
			AUG 22 2002	
			TC 1700	
Examiner Signature			Date Considered	11/3/02

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 0231.

DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

X:\CLIENTB\084555\9013\A0418813.1